

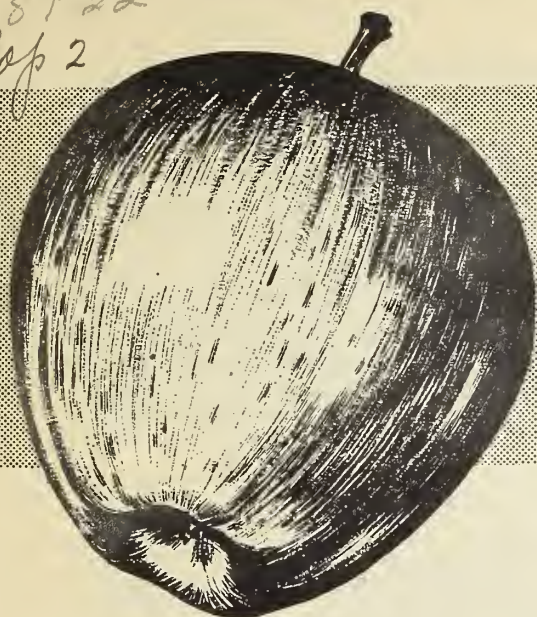
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FACT SHEET



APPALACHIAN *area* APPLE HARVEST

1946 Farm Labor Program, Extension Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

THE SITUATION--

A 20 million bushel apple crop is hanging on the trees in the Appalachian area of Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. It is a very heavy crop of good size and quality fruit, which will be ready for harvest. starting September 1 and continuing through mid-November. Large numbers of extra seasonal workers will be required for picking and packing-shed work. By states the crop estimates are:

Virginia: 10,750,000 bushels in Frederick, Clark, Shenandoah, Rockingham, Rappahannock, Augusta, Albemarle, Nelson, Botetourt and Roanoke counties.

West Virginia: 4,450,000 bushels in Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan and Hampshire counties.

Pennsylvania: 3,500,000 bushels in Franklin, Adams, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Maryland: 1,350,000 bushels in Washington, Allegany, Frederick, Carroll and Montgomery counties.

In Virginia and Maryland the harvest will start September 1 and continue through October. West Virginia's harvest will begin September 1 and end about November 15. In Pennsylvania the harvest will start September 15 and finish about October 31.

NEED FOR LABOR--

Since the crop is very heavy, there will be good picking and steady work for several thousand extra pickers and packing shed workers. These factors, and established piecework and hourly wage rates, assure many people opportunities to make good earnings through full or part time work. It is a job that should be done by local people--men, women and older youth--and other domestic

workers who can be attracted from outside areas, after local labor supplies have been exhausted.

Before the war, this crop was harvested largely by local workers recruited in and near the apple counties. During war years, the local labor shortage was overcome through use of imported workers. This year no prisoners of war are available and the number of foreign workers who may be employed is considerably reduced. With more local workers available, the responsibility for getting the harvest work done is shifting back to communities in and close to areas where the apples are. Housing for workers from distant points is very limited. This bottleneck emphasizes the importance of recruiting every possible local worker.

WHERE TO GET RELIABLE INFORMATION--

The county agricultural agent in each apple producing county has free up-to-the-minute information about the need for workers, conditions of employment, private housing and location of labor camps. Names and locations of offices and telephone numbers of county agents in the apple counties, and camp locations, are included in a special apple harvest folder which is available for public distribution. Copies will be sent to you about August 15.

At points outside the apple counties, prospective workers can get full information from their own county agricultural agent who usually has an office at the county seat. He can tell about conditions of employment, clothing required, etc.

HOW TO GET TO APPLE COUNTIES--

To workers living outside apple counties each county agent will supply copies of a road map showing the main highways leading into the apple areas. These free maps also may be obtained from farm labor offices and other recruiting centers. They will be particularly valuable to workers from points in Kentucky and Tennessee, migrant labor moving north or south, and intrastate people moving at points considerable distance from the orchards.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT--

The apple harvest offers opportunity for thousands of workers to increase their annual incomes. There are two kinds of jobs, the principal one being apple picking. The other is packing-shed work. Apple picking is not an easy job. Much of the work is done on ladders. It is not a job for young boys and girls, but women and older youth, as well as men, can handle it. After a few hours work in an orchard, an inexperienced worker can make good earnings.

Most growers will pay at least 10 cents per bushel to pickers, plus a 2 cents bonus for all who stay through the season. In the packing-sheds the minimum wage rate is 50 cents an hour for men and 40 cents for women. The crop is heavy, picking will be good and there will be steady work.

HOUSING FOR OUTSIDE WORKERS--

At 8 public camps some housing will be available for workers who do not live in areas close to the jobs. (See last page of apple harvest folder for

detailed information and locations.) In addition, numerous growers in all states have private housing, some of which may be open. County agents in the apple counties will have full information.

RECRUITING OBJECTIVES AND APPEALS--

In addition to the opportunities for good earnings, recruiting appeals should include emphasis on the necessity of harvesting this important food crop with no loss. The food situation--nationally and universally--now and as indicated for 1947, should be definitely tied in with all recruiting appeals. Last year's apple crop failure in the areas as a whole helps make a complete harvest of this year's bumper yield all the more important.

In recruiting the whole emphasis should be piled on the importance and desirability of getting the harvesting done by local people. Some domestic interstate workers will come from Kentucky, and possibly Tennessee, and some domestic colored migrants now employed in the north and south may become available later in the harvest. To fill gaps in supply, a relatively small number of foreign workers will be available, but in local recruiting campaigns, there should be no mention of this availability because it is indicated that there are enough local and other domestic workers in or close to the apple counties to do the job, if thoroughgoing and spirited recruiting is attempted.

Keep in mind the statement Secretary Anderson made to the Congress less than a year ago, when the 1946 farm labor legislation was under consideration. He said: "Not only do we expect growers to put on a campaign to recruit returning veterans and people returning from other employment, but the Department itself expects to contribute along that direction, and I know it is the intent of the Department to hold back this program as much as it possibly can and give every possible chance for American citizens to find this type of farm employment if they desire it."

STATE INFORMATION BRIEFS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL--

Virginia: Bulk of crop in Frederick and Clark counties. Apples "all-over" Frederick, Clark, Albemarle and Nelson counties; in western half of Shenandoah; northwestern third of Rockingham; east-west strip through center of Augusta; northeastern half of Roanoke; and southern third of Botetourt county. Growers in Roanoke and Botetourt are being serviced from the Roanoke county agent's office at Salem, and at the Catawba labor camp.

West Virginia: Most of state's crop is in Jefferson and Berkeley counties in the panhandle.

Pennsylvania: Bulk of crop in Franklin and Adams counties (each about 1,600,000 bushels). While not a geographic segment of the Appalachian area, Lebanon, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton county growers are commercially affiliated with the Appalachian area and will harvest substantial crops. The nearby Pennsylvania coal regions and Philadelphia are good areas for recruiting workers for these four eastern counties.

Maryland: Seventy-five percent of Maryland's crop is in Washington county's orchards. There is considerable private housing around Hancock and a special information center is operated at the Fulton Radio Sales store in Hancock. Phone Stanley Fulton, chairman of the growers' labor committee, at Hancock 7.

OTHER SOURCES OF HARVEST INFORMATION--

In addition to the county agricultural agents and their farm labor assistants, information concerning the apple harvest can be obtained from the following sources for newspaper and radio releases:

State Information--

Virginia: D. A. Tucker, State farm labor supervisor, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.; Telephone: Blacksburg 6331.
R. D. Michael, Extension editor, same address; Telephone: Blacksburg 6331.

West Virginia: Benjamin F. Creech, State farm labor supervisor, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.; Telephone: Morgantown 4454.
Edward Woodward, Extension editor; same address; Telephone: Morgantown 4454.

Pennsylvania: D. W. Atkinson, State farm labor supervisor, Pennsylvania State College, Station College, Pa.; Telephone: State College 711, Ext. 281.
Ed Rohrbeck, Extension editor, same address; Telephone: State College 711.

Maryland: Paul E. Nystrom, State farm labor supervisor, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.; Telephone: Washington, D. C.-- Warfield 3800, Ext. 265 or Union 2314.
Ted Kangas, Extension Information, same address; Telephone: Warfield 3800, Ext. 354.

Area Information--

Carroll Miller, executive secretary, Appalachian Apple Service, Martinsburg, W. Va.; Telephone: Martinsburg 772.

A. D. Cobb, northeastern area director, Extension farm labor program, South Bldg., USDA, Washington, D. C.; Telephone: Republic 4142, Ext. 2081 or 4780.

Hugh F. Eames, Farm Labor Information, Extension Service, South Bldg., USDA, Washington, D. C.; Telephone: Republic 4142, Ext. 4984.

